MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
2 OF 6
FROM THE PAGES OF THE MIGHTY THOR® DISASSEMBLED
STORMBREAKER
THE SAGA OF
OEMING
BERMAN
DiVITO
VILLARI

ON THE DEPTHS OF THE VACUUM OF SPACE, ALL IS SILENT. IF WE COULD, THE ONLY SOUND WE'D HEAR IS...
...THE UNEVEN AND WEAK HEARTBEAT OF BETA RAY BILL AS IT BUILDS LIKE THE SHAMAN'S DRUM...
...SLOWLY REACHING THE FEVERED PITCH OF A LEADER, OF A GOD.

THE CRUMBS OF GALACTUS

HOW COLD AND BLACK IS SPACE? ONLY BETA RAY BILL COULD KNOW, AS NO BEING HAS EVER BEEN SO ALONE AND LOST AS HE IS NOW.

HERO AND DEFENDER FOR BOTH THE KORBINITES AND THE ASGARDIANS, HE HAS SEEN THEM BOTH FALL ON THE SAME DAY. WITH TWO WORLDS GONE, BETA RAY STANDS ALONE, A SILENT REMNANT OF TWO DOOMED WORLDS, DRIFTING NOW INTO THE FIRE.

HOW FITTING--HIS END WILL BE AS WAS HIS BEGINNING. FROM AN EXPLODING SUN CAME THE DEMONS THAT CHASED THE KORBINITES FROM THEIR HOMEWORLD AND LED BETA RAY BILL TO ASGARD, WHERE HE FOUND A NEW FAMILY FORGED FROM OATH AND BLOOD. THERE HE WAS GIVEN STORMBREAKER, A HAMMER AS POWERFUL AS THOR'S MJOLNIR.

NOW THE STORY ENDS WHERE IT BEGAN, WITHIN THE HEART OF A SUN.

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MASTER?

YES, MY HERALD?

SIRE, IN YOUR NAME, I SHALL HUNT DOWN AND DESTROY ALL REMNANTS OF THIS CIVILIZATION. I SHALL CRUSH THOSE WHO DARE RESIST YOU. THEY MUST SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.

DO AS YOU WILL, STARDUST.

MY LORD, I SHALL SCATTER THE ASHES OF THIS WORLD, LET NO LIGHT OF MEMORY ESCAPE IT.

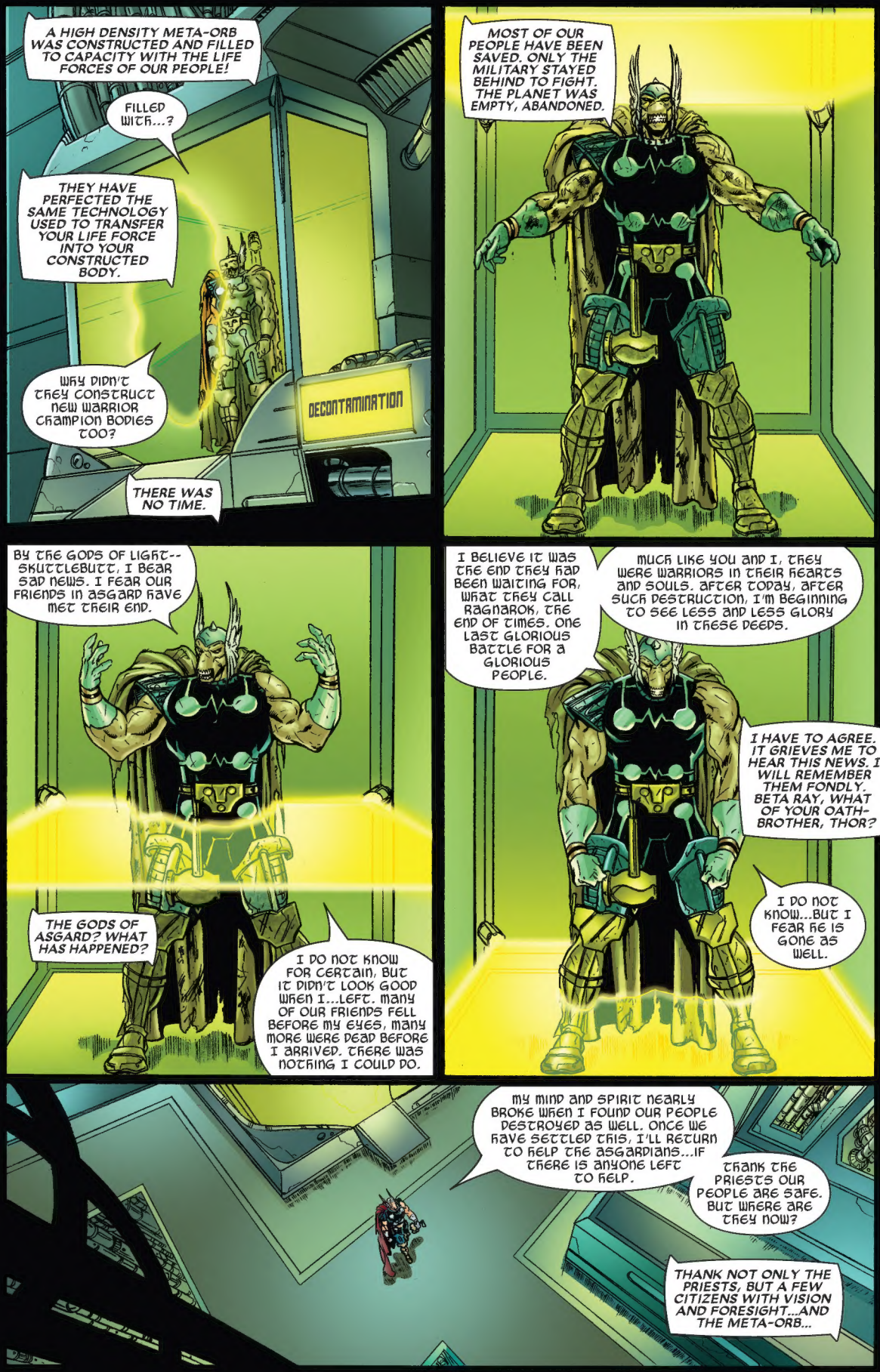
WHAT?
WHAT IS THAT? WHO IS THERE?
A SIGNAL! THE FLEET IS IN MOTION! MY PEOPLE LIVE!
THOOOM!!

A MILLION MILES OF DEBRIS.
WHY DO THESE CREATURES STRUGGLE SO? THERE IS NO HOPE OF VICTORY OR ESCAPE. THOUGH ALL IS LOST, STILL THEY RESIST.
I ADMIRE THOSE WITH THE WISDOM TO ACCEPT THEIR FATE, WHO UNDERSTAND THE STRUGGLE THEY FACE.
TO BE DEVOURED BY LORD GALACTUS IS TO BECOME ONE WITH HIM. IT IS A GREAT HONOR.
THESE BEINGS DISGUST ME.

WHAT IS THIS THING, THIS WOULD-BE HERO? A MILLION PLANETS MY MASTER HAS DEVOURED, A BILLION BEINGS HAVE STOOD AGAINST HIM AND HE HAS NEVER YIELDED. YOU KNEW NO BETTER, STILL--YOU STOOD NO CHANCE.
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF STANDING AGAINST A SUN, AGAINST A BLACK HOLE OR A COSMIC GOD?
WHEN WILL THE WEAK LEARN NOT TO STAND AGAINST THE STRONG? WHEN WILL THESE PITIFUL CREATURES LEARN TO SUCCUMB, TO BEND TO THE WILL OF THE MIGHTY?
FOOLS.
I LEARNED LONG AGO THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS HOPE. IT IS BUT A LIE WE TELL OURSELVES SO WE CAN BELIEVE THAT WE ARE NOT CRUSHED, THAT WE ARE NOT WORTHLESS, THAT WE HAVE NOT LOST.
IF YOU HAD LEARNED THAT LESSON BEFORE THIS DAY, PERHAPS YOU WOULD NOT LOOK SO SAD.
ONE DAY I WILL REACH MY HAND OUT TO THE UNIVERSE AND TEACH IT SUCH THINGS.
THESE CREATURES MUST LEARN THAT THEY SUFFER FROM THE WORST KIND OF HUBRIS--HUBRIS THAT ALWAYS LEADS TO DESTRUCTION AND RUIN.
I WILL BRING YOU BACK TO MY MASTER SO HE CAN SEE ME CRUSH YOU FOR HIM. I WILL SHOW YOU THE PRICE YOU PAY FOR YOUR HOPE.

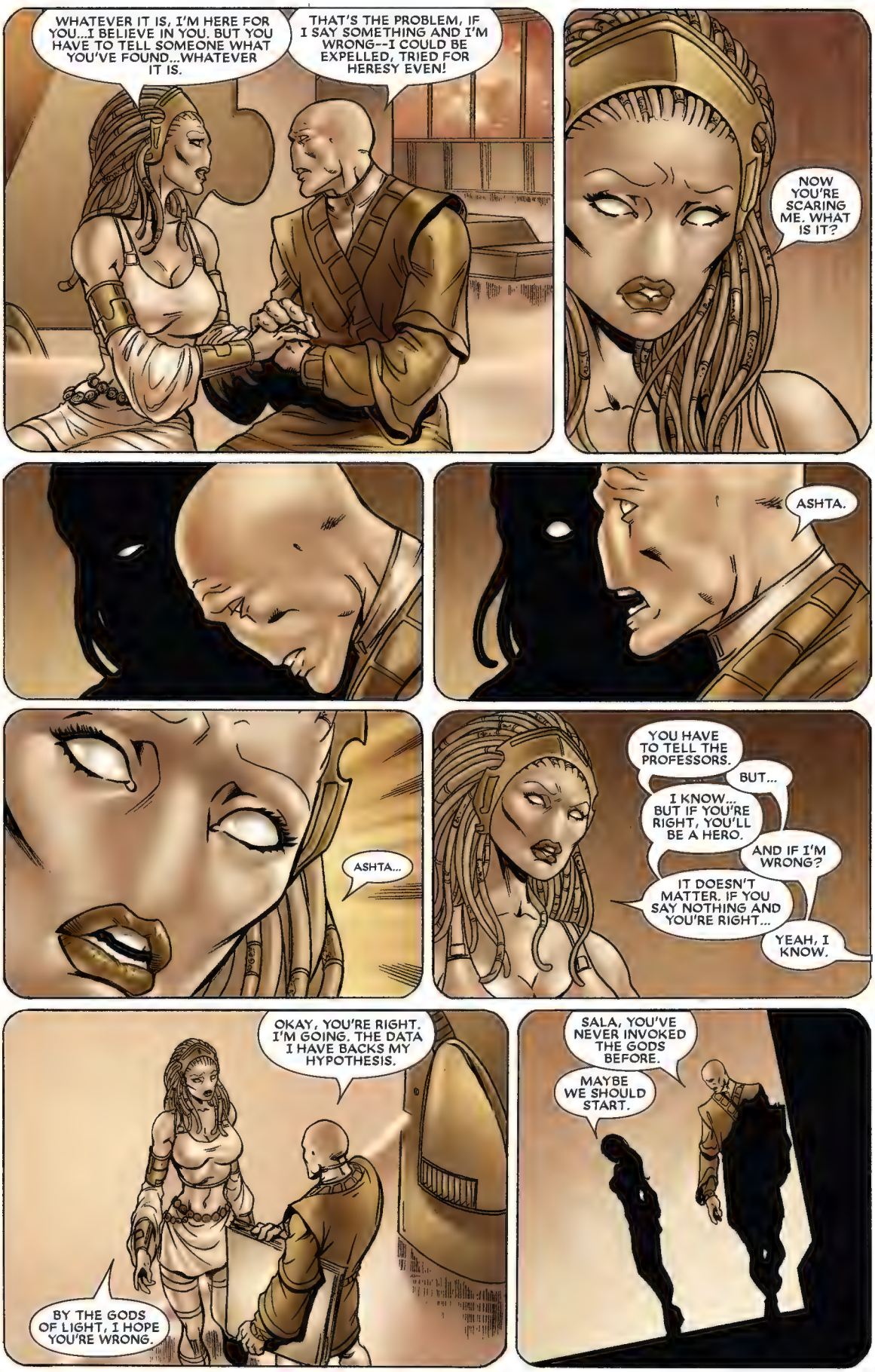
With the speed of a desperate child, Bill flies toward the signal...his only source of hope.
Just one ship? Where is the fleet? Where are the survivors? Has everything been lost after all?
Spanning half a galaxy at full speed, Beta Ray is rewarded by a sight he never thought he would see again--Skuttlebutt!
Skuttlebutt is Bill's sentient battleship, which helped blaze the path to freedom for the Korbinites.
Unidentified object on collision course.
ALL WEAPONS ALERT.
Created with much of the same technology used to create Beta Ray Bill's super-being body, Skuttlebutt is almost Beta Ray's equal. They are kin, brothers at arms, though each is one of a kind.
Target locked.
ALL GUNS FIRE!
ARGH! Skuttlebutt, it's me! It's me, Beta Ray Bill! Cease fire, cease fire!

Target Identified:
BETA RAY BILL
HOLD FIRE
BILL! I FEARED YOU WERE DEAD!
ALMOST. OUR PEOPLE... SKUTTLEBUTT... THE PLANET IS DESTROYED!
I KNOW. BUT HOPE IS NOT LOST. THERE WAS A CONTINGENCY PLAN. A FINAL SPARK OF LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! I KNOW YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED DEFENDING OUR PLANET IF YOU HADN'T BEEN ON A GREATER MISSION. WHERE IS THE FLEET? ONLY PROTECTING THE FLEET WOULD KEEP YOU FROM THAT BATTLE.
INDEED, NOTHING BUT A GREATER MISSION WOULD KEEP ME FROM DEFENDING OUR HOME. BUT THERE IS NO FLEET.
NO FLEET? BUT OUR PEOPLE... HOW?
NEW TECHNOLOGY WAS DEVELOPED TO AVERT COMPLETE DISASTER. A LAST EFFORT TO ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL.
SURVIVAL, THE THING WE ARE BEST AT.

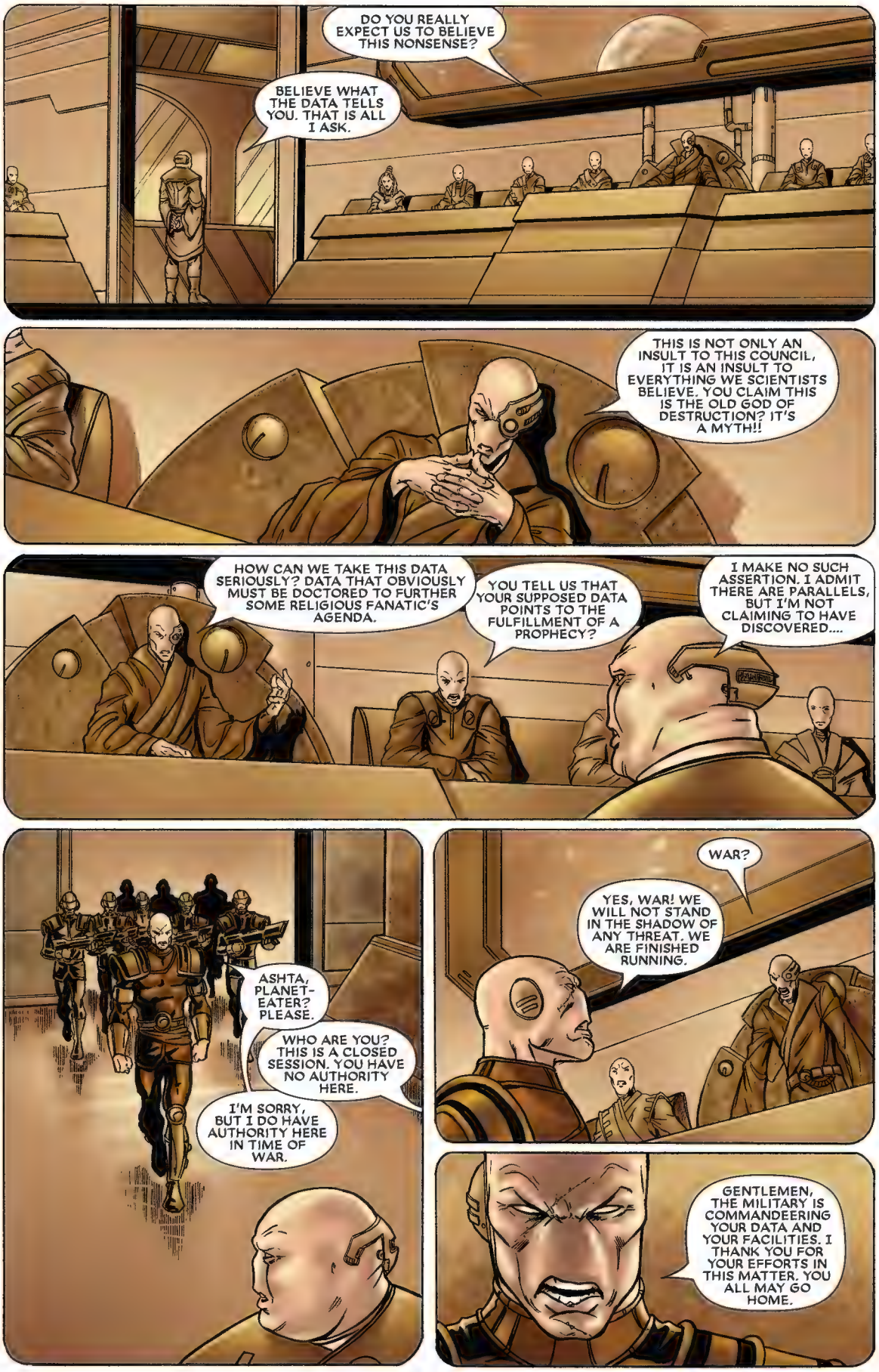

A HIGH DENSITY META-ORB WAS CONSTRUCTED AND FILLED TO CAPACITY WITH THE LIFE FORCES OF OUR PEOPLE!
FILLED WITH...?
THEY HAVE PERFECTED THE SAME TECHNOLOGY USED TO TRANSFER YOUR LIFE FORCE INTO YOUR CONSTRUCTED BODY.
WHY DIDN'T THEY CONSTRUCT NEW WARRIOR CHAMPION BODIES TOO?
DECONTAMINATION
THERE WAS NO TIME.
MOST OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAVED. ONLY THE MILITARY STAYED BEHIND TO FIGHT. THE PLANET WAS EMPTY, ABANDONED.
BY THE GODS OF LIGHT-- SKUTTLEBUTT, I BEAR SAD NEWS. I FEAR OUR FRIENDS IN ASGARD HAVE MET THEIR END.
THE GODS OF ASGARD? WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
I DO NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN, BUT IT DIDN'T LOOK GOOD WHEN I...LEFT. MANY OF OUR FRIENDS FELL BEFORE MY EYES, MANY MORE WERE DEAD BEFORE I ARRIVED. THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.
I BELIEVE IT WAS THE END THEY HAD BEEN WAITING FOR, WHAT THEY CALL RAGNAROK, THE END OF TIMES. ONE LAST GLORIOUS BATTLE FOR A GLORIOUS PEOPLE.
MUCH LIKE YOU AND I, THEY WERE WARRIORS IN THEIR HEARTS AND SOULS. AFTER TODAY, AFTER SUCH DESTRUCTION, I'M BEGINNING TO SEE LESS AND LESS GLORY IN THESE DEEDS.
I HAVE TO AGREE. IT GRIEVES ME TO HEAR THIS NEWS. I WILL REMEMBER THEM FONDLY. BETA RAY, WHAT OF YOUR OATH-BROTHER, THOR?
I DO NOT KNOW...BUT I FEAR HE IS GONE AS WELL.
MY MIND AND SPIRIT NEARLY BROKE WHEN I FOUND OUR PEOPLE DESTROYED AS WELL. ONCE WE HAVE SETTLED THIS, I'LL RETURN TO HELP THE ASGARDIANS...IF THERE IS ANYONE LEFT TO HELP.
THANK THE PRIESTS OUR PEOPLE ARE SAFE. BUT WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
THANK NOT ONLY THE PRIESTS, BUT A FEW CITIZENS WITH VISION AND FORESIGHT...AND THE META-ORB...

MASTER GALACTUS, ABSORBER OF PLANETS, AGELESS AND MIGHTY, I PRESENT TO YOU THE ONLY LIFE LEFT IN THIS SYSTEM.
THIS SAD BEING THAT BATTLED YOU IS UNDER YOUR EYES AND AT YOUR MERCY.
SHOULD I ERASE HIM FROM THE UNIVERSE FOR YOU?
NO. THIS BEING DID NOT ATTACK ME. THIS ONE FOUGHT AGAINST THE ONE WHO LEFT A MARK ON ME.
WHAT!? LEFT A MARK? HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? HOW COULD A MORTAL SUCH AS THAT ONE DO SUCH A THING?
IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE. IT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE.
NO CONSEQUENCE?!? HOW CAN THIS BE OF NO CONSEQUENCE? THIS CREATURE HAS DEFILED YOU! I MUST SEEK OUT THE DEFILER AND CRUSH HIM!
WE WILL FILL IN THIS SMALL DENT WITH HIS MELTED BODY!

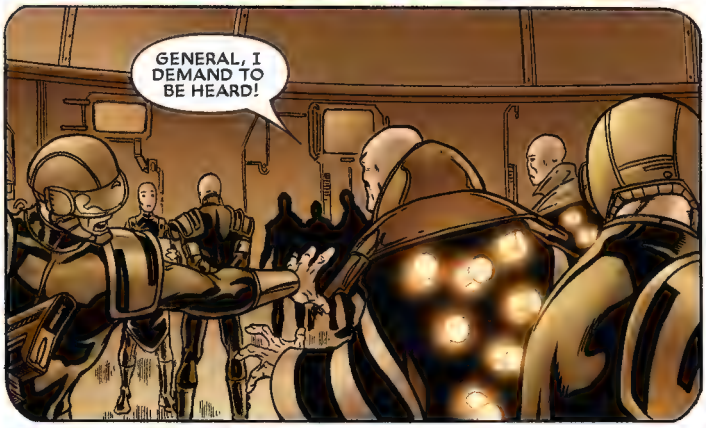
THE META-ORB? HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT? HOW DID THEY KNOW WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?
WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, LIFE PROGRESSED MUCH AS IT HAD SINCE WE SETTLED DOWN ON THE PLANET.
SEVERAL MONTHS AGO...
TWO STUDENTS STUDY THE NIGHT SKY.
DO YOU SEE IT?
YES, THERE IT IS.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, VEN. HAVE YOU CALCULATED HOW FAST IT'S GOING?
I'M WORKING ON IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS? IT SURE LOOKS FAST. IS IT A SHIP? NO, IT'S TOO FAR AWAY, ISN'T IT? IT MUST BE MASSIVE!
OH, NO... IT CAN'T BE!
WHAT?
NOTHING... I HAVE TO GO.
BUT...VEN WAIT, WHAT'S WRONG?
GOODBYE.
WHAT'S WRONG, VEN, WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME?
I JUST, I'M NOT SURE I EVEN BELIEVE IT MYSELF. HOW COULD THE OTHERS HAVE MISSED IT?
IF YOU TELL ME, MAYBE I CAN HELP.
SALA, IF WHAT I THINK I FOUND IS TRUE, NO ONE CAN HELP. THIS IS JUST...NOT POSSIBLE!
OH, IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD.
IT IS. I...
VEN, I LOVE YOU. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT? YOU CAN TRUST ME.
OF COURSE I KNOW, SALA-- BUT I...


WHATEVER IT IS, I'M HERE FOR YOU...I BELIEVE IN YOU. BUT YOU HAVE TO TELL SOMEONE WHAT YOU'VE FOUND...WHATEVER IT IS.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM, IF I SAY SOMETHING AND I'M WRONG--I COULD BE EXPELLED, TRIED FOR HERESY EVEN!
NOW YOU'RE SCARING ME. WHAT IS IT?
ASHTA.
ASHTA...
YOU HAVE TO TELL THE PROFESSORS.
BUT...
I KNOW... BUT IF YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'LL BE A HERO.
AND IF I'M WRONG?
IT DOESN'T MATTER. IF YOU SAY NOTHING AND YOU'RE RIGHT...
YEAH, I KNOW.
OKAY, YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M GOING. THE DATA I HAVE BACKS MY HYPOTHESIS.
BY THE GODS OF LIGHT, I HOPE YOU'RE WRONG.
SALA, YOU'VE NEVER INVOKED THE GODS BEFORE.
MAYBE WE SHOULD START.

I DISCOVERED THE ANOMALY, AND WHILE I WAS MEASURING ITS PATH AND SPEED, IT CHANGED DIRECTION.
CHANGED DIRECTION? WHAT FORCE WAS ACTING UPON IT?
THERE WAS NO EXTERNAL FORCE.
WHAT? NOTHING THAT BIG CAN CHANGE DIRECTION WITHOUT SOME EXTERNAL FORCE ACTING ON IT. WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THIS?
I...THIS IS NO JOKE...I... I HAVE PROOF... I...
PROOF? THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME. HERESY EVEN! GET OUT OF HERE!
NO, YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME! IT IS HEADING RIGHT TOWARDS US!
JUST LOOK AT THE DATA! IF I'M WRONG, I'LL ACCEPT CENSURE. BUT IF I'M RIGHT, WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING! YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING! LOOK AT THE DATA!
WAIT.
OKAY, WE'LL REVIEW YOUR DATA. DO NOT MENTION THIS TO ANYONE ON THREAT OF CENSURE AND EXPULSION.
IS THIS WISE?
TAKE A LOOK...I'M WILLING TO TAKE THE CHANCE.
VERY WELL. YOU UNDERSTAND THE TROUBLE WE CAN BE IN FOR SIMPLY LOOKING INTO THIS? THE MILITARY WOULD NEVER STAND FOR IT. WHO KNOWS HOW THE PRIESTHOOD WILL REACT.
YES. THE BOY IS RIGHT, IT IS WORTH THE RISK.
THANK YOU.

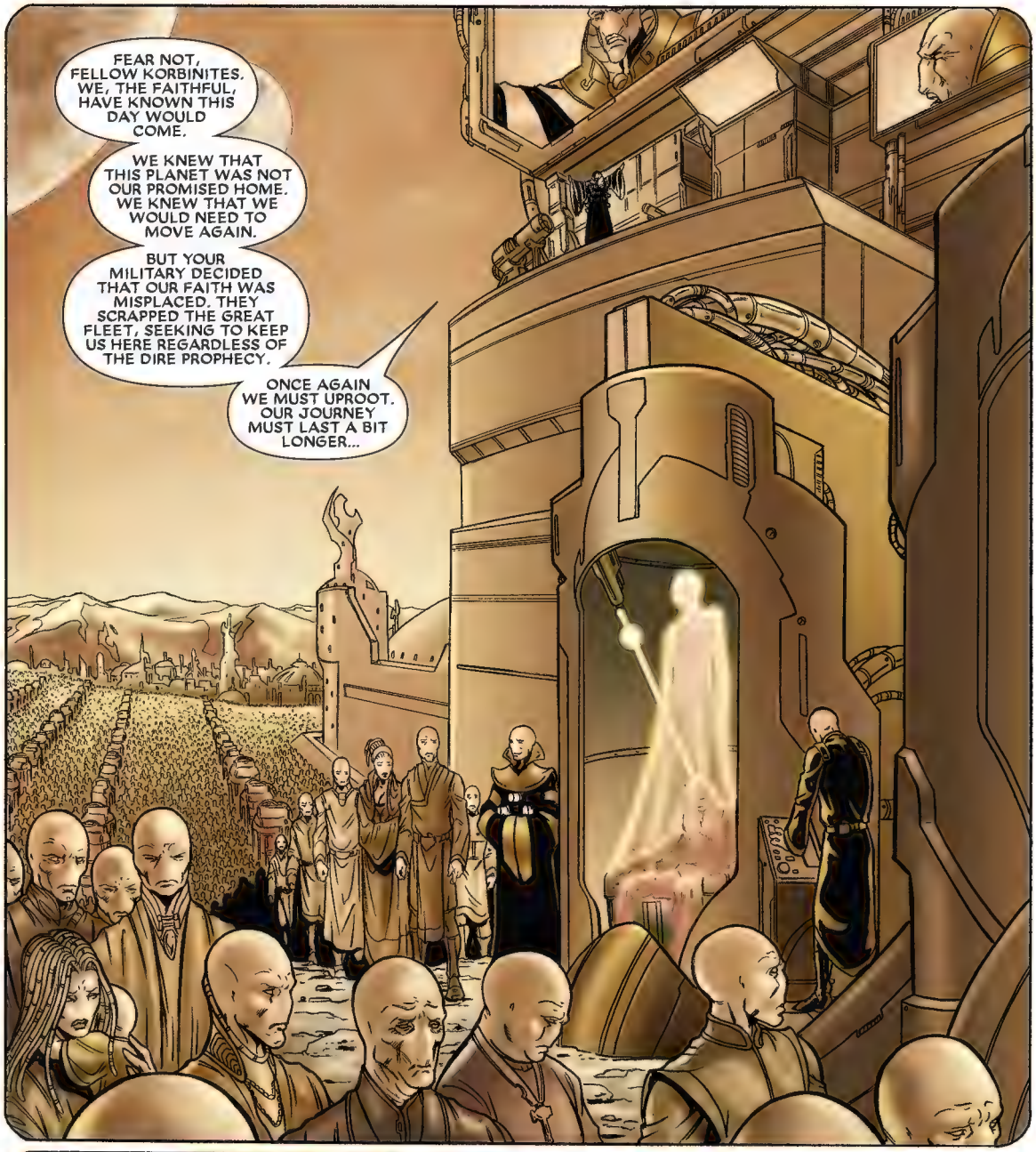

DO YOU REALLY EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THIS NONSENSE?
BELIEVE WHAT THE DATA TELLS YOU. THAT IS ALL I ASK.
THIS IS NOT ONLY AN INSULT TO THIS COUNCIL, IT IS AN INSULT TO EVERYTHING WE SCIENTISTS BELIEVE. YOU CLAIM THIS IS THE OLD GOD OF DESTRUCTION? IT'S A MYTH!!
HOW CAN WE TAKE THIS DATA SERIOUSLY? DATA THAT OBVIOUSLY MUST BE DOCTORED TO FURTHER SOME RELIGIOUS FANATIC'S AGENDA.
YOU TELL US THAT YOUR SUPPOSED DATA POINTS TO THE FULFILLMENT OF A PROPHECY?
I MAKE NO SUCH ASSERTION. I ADMIT THERE ARE PARALLELS, BUT I'M NOT CLAIMING TO HAVE DISCOVERED....
ASHTA, PLANET-EATER? PLEASE.
WHO ARE YOU? THIS IS A CLOSED SESSION. YOU HAVE NO AUTHORITY HERE.
I'M SORRY, BUT I DO HAVE AUTHORITY HERE IN TIME OF WAR.
WAR?
YES, WAR! WE WILL NOT STAND IN THE SHADOW OF ANY THREAT. WE ARE FINISHED RUNNING.
GENTLEMEN, THE MILITARY IS COMMANDEERING YOUR DATA AND YOUR FACILITIES. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN THIS MATTER. YOU ALL MAY GO HOME.

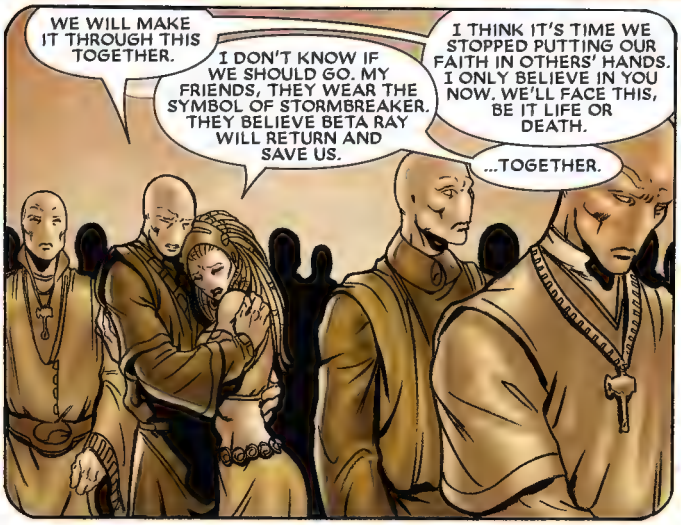
NONE OF OUR PROBES HAVE HAD ANY EFFECT.

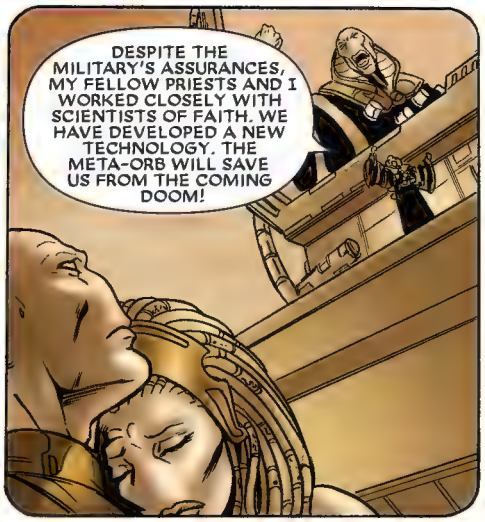

GENERAL, I DEMAND TO BE HEARD!

I HAVE NO TIME FOR THIS, PRIEST.
YOU'D BETTER MAKE THE TIME, GENERAL. WE DEMAND TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING. IF THE PROPHECY IS COMING TRUE, WE MUST PREPARE.
PREPARE? IF YOU BELIEVE THIS IS PROPHECY COMING TRUE, ISN'T IT INEVITABLE? WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE TO PREPARE FOR?
WE MUST PREPARE OUR SOULS. BESIDES, THERE IS MUCH WE CAN DO...WE HAVE PLANNED FOR THIS.

THE PEOPLE WILL KNOW THE TRUTH. GENERAL, THEY WILL KNOW THE TRUTH!


FEAR NOT, FELLOW KORBINITES. WE, THE FAITHFUL, HAVE KNOWN THIS DAY WOULD COME.
WE KNEW THAT THIS PLANET WAS NOT OUR PROMISED HOME. WE KNEW THAT WE WOULD NEED TO MOVE AGAIN.
BUT YOUR MILITARY DECIDED THAT OUR FAITH WAS MISPLACED. THEY SCRAPPED THE GREAT FLEET, SEEKING TO KEEP US HERE REGARDLESS OF THE DIRE PROPHECY.
ONCE AGAIN WE MUST UPROOT. OUR JOURNEY MUST LAST A BIT LONGER...


WE WILL MAKE IT THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.
I DON'T KNOW IF WE SHOULD GO. MY FRIENDS, THEY WEAR THE SYMBOL OF STORMBREAKER. THEY BELIEVE BETA RAY WILL RETURN AND SAVE US.
I THINK IT'S TIME WE STOPPED PUTTING OUR FAITH IN OTHERS' HANDS. I ONLY BELIEVE IN YOU NOW. WE'LL FACE THIS, BE IT LIFE OR DEATH.
...TOGETHER.


DESPITE THE MILITARY'S ASSURANCES, MY FELLOW PRIESTS AND I WORKED CLOSELY WITH SCIENTISTS OF FAITH. WE HAVE DEVELOPED A NEW TECHNOLOGY. THE META-ORB WILL SAVE US FROM THE COMING DOOM!

DO YOU THINK WE'LL FEEL ANYTHING WHILE WE'RE IN THERE?
I DON'T KNOW. I HOPE NOT. I HOPE IT'S LIKE SLEEPING.
WHY?
WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THE WAIT WILL BE? WE CAN DREAM WE ARE TOGETHER, EATING YOUR HORRIBLE COOKING.
HEY, STOP! SALA!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? CALM DOWN, YOU'LL START A PANIC.
SORRY, SON. GET IN THIS LINE. IF EVERYONE PICKED THE ORDER THEY WENT IN, WE'D NEVER GET THIS DONE.
MY GIRLFRIEND, SHE'S IN THAT LINE.
BUT MY GIRLFRIEND--
ALL THE LINES ARE GOING TO THE SAME PLACE.
VEN!!!
CAN I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? WE ARE SORRY FOR THE SUBTERFUGE, BUT WE FELT IT WAS NECESSARY. YOU HAVE BEEN DRAFTED.
WHAT ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE?
ARE THEY DEAD? DID YOU JUST KILL THEM!?
THEY WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE META-ORB AND SENT TO SAFETY. YOU WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF FIGHTING WITH US TO ASSURE KORBINITE SURVIVAL.
YES, SIR.
GOODBYE, SALA...

WILL THE SACRIFICES OF OUR PEOPLE NEVER END? WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO BE SO CURSED?
WE ARE FOLLOWING THE PATH OF THE ORB AT MAXIMUM DISTANCE TO ASSURE ITS SAFE JOURNEY, WHEREVER IT MAY GO. WE ARE RECEIVING CONTINUOUS UPDATES FROM THE ORB ITSELF. ESTIMATES INDICATE EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE CIVILIANS ARE SAFELY WITHIN IT.
THAT MEANS TWENTY PERCENT DIED. NOTHING TO BE GRATEFUL FOR.
OF ALL THE BATTLES I'VE FOUGHT, ALL THE FOES DEFEATED, ALL THE FRIENDS LOST, NEVER HAVE I BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH AS TODAY. I'M WEARY FROM HEARTACHE...
NO TIME TO REST, BILL. I HAVE LOST THE SIGNAL FROM THE META-ORB!
WHAT? GET IT BACK-- FAST!
YES, WAIT, THERE IS SOME SIGNAL GETTING THROUGH, BUT IT IS WEAK. THERE IS SOME KIND OF ENERGY INTERFERING WITH THE SIGNAL.
WHAT KIND OF ENERGY?
I DON'T KNOW, IT IS UNLIKE ANYTHING IN MY DATABASE. I'M BRINGING UP A VISUAL NOW.
OR, NO...

WHAT IS THIS? DID YOU WISH TO DECEIVE US? WHY CAN YOU NOT ACCEPT YOUR FATE? DID YOU DARE THINK MY MASTER HAS NOT SEEN SIMILAR PLOYS BY HUNDREDS OF RACES BEFORE?
I TOLD YOU HOPE WAS FUTILE.
COME TO ME NOW AND I MIGHT SPARE YOUR PEOPLE. I WILL SHOW YOU THE MEANING OF MY NAME, STARDUST!

WHY DO YOU DO THIS? LET THEM GO. THEY ARE POWERLESS AGAINST YOU.
AND YOU ARE NOT?
NO, I AM NOT. I AM THE CHAMPION OF A PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED, CHASED AND HATED.
I AM OATH BROTHER TO THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER! I CARRY STORMBREAKER, A WEAPON OF GREAT POWER, BLESSED BY ODIN, THE ALL-FATHER!
PERHAPS YOU WILL BE A CHALLENGE AFTER ALL. I CAN'T HAVE THAT. I LIKE HAVING THE ADVANTAGE.
NOOOO!
CONTINUED...